

MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
5:00 PM
Mansfield Downtown Partnership office
1244 Storrs Road

Minutes

Present: Chair: Steve Rogers, Brien Buckman, Rene Schein, Brian Wells

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Steve Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

2. Public Comment

There was no public present.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2010

There was no quorum so the minutes could not be approved.

4. Update and Discussion on Commercial Leasing

Steve Rogers said Storrs Center is moving forward. He noted that the Board of Directors voted last night to recommend to the Town Director of Planning that the zoning permit for Phases 1A and 1B is consistent with the Storrs Center Special Design District regulations. Mr. Rogers said the Director of Planning is likely to have some conditions with his approval.

Cynthia van Zelm said she expects that building permit applications for Phases 1A and 1B will be submitted by the master developer to the Town building official in March/April.

Mr. Rogers said he spoke to Board President Philip Lodewick and Howard Kaufman at LeylandAlliance about the process of current businesses negotiating directly with LeylandAlliance on possible commercial space.

Brien Buckman said he thought that residential space above lab space at the UConn planned industrial park would be attractive.

5. Review Construction Logistics for current Storrs Center businesses

Ms. van Zelm referred to a draft outline of construction related issues for Storrs Center businesses for the Committee to review.

Mr. Rogers asked Committee members to send their comments by the next meeting to him or Ms. van Zelm by e-mail after their review.

He emphasized that it will be important for there to be an action plan for access off of Storrs Road and Dog Lane for businesses during construction.

Mr. Buckman suggested a construction blog that could be accessed by UConn parents would be helpful. Ms. van Zelm said a construction blog is being discussed.

6. Update on Town Economic and Community Development Efforts and Partnership role

Ms. van Zelm updated the Committee on efforts to assist current and local businesses in Mansfield. She passed out a sample packet that will be given to businesses that the Town Manager and Ms. van Zelm visit in the Town's business visitation program. Ms. van Zelm said a welcome letter is also being sent to new businesses as they come to town and she referenced that letter as well.

Ms. van Zelm said the Town Planning Office is developing a list of available commercial property which will be located on its website.

Ms. van Zelm said a larger discussion of the Town and Partnership staff role in economic and community development will be held with the Partnership Board of Directors. An update on work thus far will be given to the Board and the Town Council.

7. Future meetings

The Committee agreed to meet on March 2 at 5 pm with March 7 as a back-up. Ms. van Zelm will e-mail this date out to see if it works for the majority of Committee members.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.